

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, 404, Shri Sitaram Yechury
 ...
(Interruptions)...

श्री दिविजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, अब तो चला चली की बेला है। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप ठहरिए।

Housing Projects in Urban Centres

*404. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is huge demand for housing projects in the urban centres;
- (b) if so, whether Government are planning to study land management in urban areas;
- (c) the number of homeless living in Jhuggi-jhonpris in major cities in the country; and
- (d) whether there is any plan with Government to provide housing to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land is a state subject and therefore the responsibility to study land management in urban area primary lies with the State Government. However, in the proposed National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy special emphasis is being given to land planning and land management in urban areas such as earmarking a portion of land at affordable rates for housing for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) at all levels including in new-public/private housing colonies, providing tenurial rights at affordable prices to urban slum dwellers with special emphasis on persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes

(ST)/ Weaker Sections/physically handicapped and planning of urban land for optimum density use.

(c) and (d) The slum census, 2001 in towns with more than 50,000 population, has reported 40.606 million slum dwellers. To address the problem of housing in slum area and to provide other civic amenities, the Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to take up housing for slum dwellers and related infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 63 select Mission cities under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. The Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has been launched to address the problem of housing for slum dwellers and also provision of civic amenities in non-Mission cities and towns. The programmes have been in operation since December-2005. The provision of basic civic amenities including water supply, sewerage, drainage, community toilet/baths, etc. are admissible components under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the answers that she has given. I am fully conscious that land is a State subject, but at the same time, in the answer itself the hon. Minister has pointed out certain guidelines that they have given to State Governments with regard to land management. But, Sir, my first supplementary relates to the pressures that have been put on the State Governments to either withdraw or dilute the Urban Land Ceiling Acts that they have. Now this dilution or the pressure asking them to remove these Acts will leave the entire urban property conditions in an unregulated fashion and, once again leave it at the mercy of the builders lobby and the various other lobbies that are at work, which all of us know and we are watching-- the common people will be the sufferers. Why is this pressure to remove the Land Ceiling Act for urban sectors? Despite land being a State subject, I would like to know, through you, from the Government why is this pressure and why are they not protecting land regulation in the urban centres?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, basically, the idea is to release more land to increase the housing stock in the urban areas. Today, it is not a hidden fact that the demand for housing has gone up tremendously in the country. In the beginning of the Eleventh Plan, Sir, the demand for housing in the

urban areas, according to one study done by a technical group, is to the tune of 24 million houses in the urban areas itself, and most of it is in the EWS and LIG sector. So, this is one of the reasons to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling Act. In most of the States, a lot of discussion has gone into it. Most of the States have agreed to do it. I think by now even West Bengal has also agreed to do it...*(Interruptions)*... Let me answer...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is part of our reforms under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and anybody who accesses money from the National Urban Renewal Mission will sign an MoU with the Government of India agreeing to these reforms to be undertaken...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let her speak. Please don't interrupt...*(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI SELJA: There are some States who have agreed with most of these; some had reservations about these, but most of the States, I would say, are on board. Any State who has signed the MoU has agreed to these reforms and ULCA is part of that, but Sir, that is one aspect. The basic question which I think the hon. Member is leading to is the shortage of housing for the poor people, for the slum dwellers in this country and that is a problem staring at us in the face. There are many measures which are being taken to counter that.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, my second supplementary and the point on which we want a clear answer from the Government is about the Urban Land Ceiling Act which is there in place. Our understanding is that West Bengal has not agreed to amend this Act. Our purpose was that unless the Government agencies and the Government itself takes the responsibility for providing houses to the poor, the question of removing this Act and handing it over to private players will only make the situation worse. The Minister's answer itself tells you that more than forty million slum dwellers are there. There are statistics to show this. Our own surveys have shown that more than eighty per cent of these slum dwellers, not only in the big Metros, but in the smaller towns also, are all below the poverty line. Now, who will take the responsibility to provide houses for them? Is it going to be the private builders and the builders' lobby? Why is the Government withdrawing itself from this responsibility?

Sir, connected with this is my second supplementary and, that is, Sir, related to the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. Now, the Minister

has correctly pointed out that under this Mission, the funds being given to the State Governments and to the urban centres are conditional. These funds are conditional in the sense that unless the State Government withdraws the Urban Land Ceiling Act, the funds will not be provided. Unless the urban municipalities introduce user charges, these funds will not be released. In other words, even for using a normal community tap in a slum area, now user charges will be put for using that water. It is not resolving the problem, but this is compounding the problem for the poor in the urban centres.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, first of all, I would like to make it very clear to the hon. Member that as far as the poor are concerned and as far as the water and sanitation are concerned, this is not linked with these reforms. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: What about user charges?

KUMARI SELJA: No; not for the poor; it is not linked. It is not linked. I want to make it very clear to the hon. Member and, through him, to the ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: But you have got some conditions.

KUMARI SELJA: Some conditions are there. But the Government is definitely not shirking its responsibility. Sir, the hon. Member is very well aware of the fact that the slums, the land, all this is a State subject, but the UPA's Common Minimum Programme has made it very clear that the urban poor to occupy a centre stage position in the scheme of things, as far as this Government and the UPA is concerned. That is why, we have come out with a major new initiative of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission whereby the Central Government will provide as far as the Mission cities are concerned, sixty-three Mission cities are concerned, fifty per cent of the funds, and as far as the smaller towns and cities are concerned,—apart from the Mission cities, there is a huge demand for it — the Central Government is providing eighty per cent of the funds. Sir, all this very clearly shows how concerned the Central Government is about the needs of the poor in the urban centres. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि एन-डी-ए शासन काल में एक योजना शुरू की गई थी, जिसका नाम बालमीकि

अम्बेडकर आवास योजना था? यह शहरी इलाकों में बड़े पैमाने पर शेड्यूल कास्ट के लिए दलितों के लिए प्रकान्च बनाने की योजना थी। क्या यह सही है कि इस बजट में उसे योजना को समाप्त कर दिया गया है? बाबा साहब अम्बेडकर के नाम को मिटा दिया गया है और अब जवाहर लाल नेहरू अरबन रेन्यूअल मिशन के नाम से, शर्ते के साथ इसे चलाया जा रहा है?

कुमारी शैलजा: सभापति जी, वैम्बे स्कीम लागू थी। यह पहले 2001 में शुरू की गई थी। सब्सिवेन्टली, बाद में यह देखा गया कि वैम्बे स्कीम बहुत बड़ी समस्या के केवल कुछ हिस्से को ही एड्रेस करती है। जैसा आपने कहा कि कुछ ही परिवार, जो एस०सी०/एस०टी० हैं, गरीब परिवार हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: कुछ कैसे हो गए? एस०सी०/एस०टी० परिवार समाज के कुछ हैं? वे समाज के कुछ हैं ... (व्यवधान)...

कुमारी शैलजा: मैं माननीय सदस्य के सवाल का जवाब दे रही हूं। (व्यवधान) ... यह सब देखा जा रहा है, लेकिन हमारा एक्सपीरिएंस यह रहा और सभी स्टेट्स ने भी डिमांड की कि वैम्बे में बहुत भारी खिमियां हैं। क्योंकि केवल दो स्लम्स-नेशनल स्लम डेवलपमेंट ग्रोग्राम और वैम्बे स्कीम में वैम्बे स्कीम केवल घरों की बात करती थी। हमने और पूरे देश ने यह देखा कि स्लम्स वहीं के वहीं रहे, उनमें कोई फर्क नहीं आया। जहां एन०एस०डी०पी० को दिया गया ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: नेहरू का नाम बदला कि नहीं ... (व्यवधान)...

कुमारी शैलजा: आप सुन लीजिए, आप बाद में सब पूछ सकते हैं... (व्यवधान) ... लेकिन उसमें मिस मैच रहा। स्लम्स वहीं के वहीं रहे। उसके कारण यह देखा गया कि जब तक स्लम को होलिडिस्टिक फैशन में एड्रेस नहीं करेंगे ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: और जवाहर लाल नेहरू का नाम नहीं जोड़ेंगे ... (व्यवधान)...

कुमारी शैलजा: पूरे स्लम को वहां पर बेसिक सर्विसेज देने की बात नहीं करेंगे ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: जवाहर लाल नेहरू का नाम नहीं जोड़ेंगे ... (व्यवधान) ... जब तक जवाहरलाल नेहरू का नाम नहीं जोड़ेंगे, तब तक इस देश में तरक्की नहीं होगी ... (व्यवधान)...

कुमारी शैलजा: इस देश में सब कुछ चाहिए। अगर वे शहर में भी रहते हैं तो ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: डा० अम्बेडकर का नाम क्यों हटाया गया? क्यों बाबा साहब अम्बेडकर का

नाम हटाया, यह बताइए ... (व्यवधान) ... बाबा साहब अम्बेडकर के नाम को हटाने का काम क्यों किया गया, इसका जवाब दीजिए ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री प्रदीप राष्ट्रपाल: वह श्री अरुण शौरी जी से पूछना पड़ेगा ... (व्यवधान) ... Shri Arun Shourie has written the book(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: You agree to what Mr. Shourie has said about Dr. Ambedkar.(Interruptions)... It means that you agree with what Mr. Shourie has said.(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. That is enough.(Interruptions)... Please take your seat.(Interruptions)... **Shrimati Prema Cariappa.**(Interruptions)...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: आपके सवाल का जवाब तो मिला ही नहीं।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: नाम क्यों बदला?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: नाम बदला गया या नहीं, मंत्री महोदया यह तो बता दें ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: In part (c) of the answer, it is said that JNNURM and BSUP is taking up housing for slum dwellers and other infrastructure facilities to 63 select Mission cities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are these 63 select cities which are getting housing and other facilities for urban slum dwellers.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, I could give the list to the hon. Member. I have already circulated documents to all the hon. Members of both the Houses, but I could provide the list again. The 63 Mission cities are basically mega cities, the capitals of States and other cities which have historical or other importance.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, housing is a big problem in urban areas, and the poor cannot afford to construct houses of their own. As the hon. Member has already said, land is a major problem. Now, they are covering 63 cities. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister when she is going to cover all the major cities' municipalities. What is the target and how much money has been allocated in the scheme?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, the hon. Member has sought a very good clarification; time and again, people are not very clear about it. I would like

to inform the House that 63 cities are part of the Basic Services to the Urban Poor component of the Mission, but we also have a parallel scheme under the Mission itself for smaller towns and cities of the country. For that, as I said, the Scheme is the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme, which addresses problems in a similar fashion for smaller towns and cities which are not part of the main Mission, which do not form part of the 63 Mission cities.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, the fact remains that population is increasing; there is also the fact that the population is moving from rural areas to urban areas. The prices of land have skyrocketed. Recently, there was also a news-item saying that, probably, terrorists' money is going into the land. In view of all this, unless more land is made available, it will be impossible for the poor people to get a share of that land. I would like to compliment the UPA Government that the Land Ceiling Act is being removed so that the availability of land could be increased.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*... whether it is true that the number of slums is increasing further and so is the number of people living in the same slum. In that case, in addition to the plan that the Government already has, does the Government plan to increase the F.A.R. areas so that more construction could take place? For the information of the hon. Member, even in West Bengal, in Rajaghat, even the poorest of the poor people are getting houses; because of this kind of planning, private people are building residential accommodation for poorer people. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is on record. I would like to know from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, this is a distorted picture ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him finish. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether she is going to increase the F.A.R. That is number one. *(Interruptions)* Even, more supply of land and more supply of constructed area are required. Is the hon. Minister thinking of having more plans for this purpose?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, since this supplementary is directed at me, I would request the Minister to yield and please let me answer. ...(*Interruptions*)... He is talking about West Bengal. Let me assure the hon. House and the hon. Member that in West Bengal poorest of the poor are getting this precisely because the Land Ceiling Act has not been removed and that is what I am pleading with the Government, that do not remove this. Otherwise, it is only the rich which will corner the land, not others. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't disturb. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let him speak...(*Interruptions*).. Shri M.S. Gill.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Hon. Minister has not replied my question. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Minister has to reply, not he. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: But the question was directed to me.

कुमारी शैलजा: सर, माननीय सदस्य बिल्कुल ठीक कह रहे हैं कि देश में slum populaiton बढ़ रही है। हमारे शहरों पर इस चीज का बहुत बड़ा pressure है कि जो गरीब लोग रह रहे हैं, उनके आवास की एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या हमारे सामने आ रही है। इसे हमें केवल एक तरह से नहीं, बल्कि multi-pronged strategy के तहत tackle करना पड़ेगा। जहाँ तक गवर्नर्मेंट का सवाल है, जैसा मैंने कहा National Urban Renewal Mission के तहत वह अपना रोल play कर ही रही है, लेकिन चूंकि लैंड राज्यों की सम्पत्ति है, तो इसमें उनको भी अलग-अलग models निकालने पड़ेंगे। महाराष्ट्र ने कुछ निकाला है, बंगाल ने अपने ढांग से अपना निकाला है, तो सभी राज्य अपने-अपने ढांग से इसे देख रहे हैं। सर, दिल्ली में भी जो मास्टर प्लान है, उसमें 15 per cent of the FAR has been reserved for the poor people and about 35 per cent of the dwelling units will be reserved for the poor people.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, while I commend the Government and the Minister for the efforts that they are making for housing for the urban poor, we all also know that the urban poor come from remote villages of the rural India in desperation for *dal-roti*. But I do want the Government and the Minister to spare a thought also for the rural poor around the 63 or 600 urban centres who are going to be adversely affected. In about seventy-eighty

villages of Delhi, in the villages of Chandigarh or in any city you need more land, as everybody knows and, therefore you are going to gobble them up. But you are gobbling them up under the compulsory Acquisition Act, which is utterly unfair to the rural people of this country in free India. It is an act of the British and I keep reading statements of the Government and even of the Prime Minister of what you are going to do, but I would request the Minister to let us know: Is the Government, in taking of land which they are bound to do here and there or everywhere, going to look after the rural people from Delhi to Chandigarh to West Bengal?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, as far as Government of India is concerned, it is not directing the State Governments at all on this because there is enough, ample, flexibility given to the State Governments and it is expected and I am sure that the State Governments are very responsible.

श्री सभापति: नेक्स्ट क्वैश्चन नं० 405 ।

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: सर, प्रश्न संख्या 416 भी यही सवाल है, कृपया इसे इसके साथ club कर दीजिए।

श्री सभापति: मैं देखूँगा। आप प्रश्न संख्या 405 का जवाब दीजिए।

रामसेतु की संरक्षा के लिए अभियान

*405. श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: क्या पोत परिवहन, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रामसेतु की संरक्षा के लिए अमेरिका के ईशावास्यमिंद, ब्रिटेन के हिन्दू फोरम, नीदरलैण्डस के ग्लोबल ह्यूमेन राइट्स डिफेन्स आदि ने कोई अभियान चलाया है;

(ख) क्या उन्होंने सेतुसमुद्रम-परियोजना से पर्यावरण एवं सुरक्षा से संबंधित प्रश्न भी उठाए हैं; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन्होंने 'सुनामी' के पश्चात् के ऑकड़ों पर भी विचार करने की सलाह दी है?

पोत परिवहन, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री (श्री टी०आर० बालू): (क) से (ग) उपर्युक्त मामला कुछ अखबारों में छपा है, फिर भी इस बारे में इन संगठनों से कोई अधिवेदन नहीं मिला है।